

PRIORITY

The Examiner has indicated that he has not received certified copies of application no. 0021456.9 and 0101215.2. However, Applicant filed certified copies of both on October 25, 2001. Attached copy of the postcard receipt evidencing receipt by the U.S. Patent Office of both certified copies.

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were pending in the application. Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Claims 8, 11, 21, 24, and 25. Claims 30-33 have been added. Therefore, claims 8-33 are pending in the application.

Claim Objections:

The Office Action has objected to claim 11 because of an informality. Claim 11 has been amended. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 11.

The Office Action has objected to claim 21 because of an informality. Specifically, the Office Action has requested that "a device" in line 6 on page 21 be changed to "the device". However, the Applicant respectfully points out that "the device" at this point in the claim would not have a proper antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 21.

Claim Rejections:

35 USC §103 Rejections

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-12, 18-25, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul (U.S. Patent 5,991,875) (hereinafter "Paul") in view of Wakabayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,454,164) (hereinafter "Wakabayashi"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Neither Paul nor Wakabayashi disclose, teach, or suggest “the restraint being located at the exterior of the reading station” as recited in amended claims 8, 11, 24, and 25. The Office Action has pointed to the lever 20 in Wakabayashi to anticipate the restraint in the Applicant’s claims. However, Wakabayashi does not describe lever 20 as a restraint, but instead depends on lever 20 to activate a detection switch 18 (see Wakabayashi, col. 7, lines 3-11). Furthermore, Wakabayashi does not disclose any type of restraint “located at the exterior of the reading station” as recited in claims 8, 11, 24, and 25. Applicant asserts claims 8, 11, 24, and 25 and claims 9-10, 12, 18-20, and 28-29 dependent from these claims are allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

Furthermore, neither Paul nor Wakabayashi disclose, teach, or suggest “the device receiver comprising a formation having a first portion of larger cross-sectional area that defines a protuberance to project from the wall, a second portion of smaller cross-sectional area to be received within the aperture in the wall, and a passage that passes through both portions to define a passage through the wall, the first portion further comprising a hole formed in the protuberance, which hole passes between opposite surfaces of the protuberance and traverses the passage for receiving a restraint to engage an opening in a device when the device is received in the device receiver for retaining the device therein (emphasis added)” as recited in amended claim 21. The Examiner has not addressed how either of these references are readable on, for example, the above emphasized claim elements (among others). The Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 21 and claims 22-23 dependent from amended claim 21 are allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

The Office Action has rejected claims 13-17, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul as modified by Wakabayashi in view of Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent 4,774,399) (hereinafter “Fujita”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

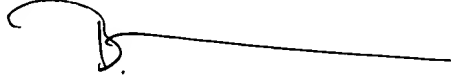
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13-17 and 26-27, dependent on patently distinct claims 8 and 25, respectively, are allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5681-03900\BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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